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INFORMATION REPORT

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25X1A2g

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COUNTRY Ethiopia

SUBJECT Errors on Existing Maps/Corrections to World Aeronautical Charts

NO. OF PAGES

2

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT #

RESPONSIVE TO

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PLACE ACQ 25X1A

DATE ACQUIRED (By source) DATE OF INFORMATION (Date or dates, on or between which, events or conditions described in report existed)

25X1X6 1952-1955

SOURCE

1. The mountain shown on WAC #789 (approx 8°36'N - 41°15'E) is incorrectly placed. There is no peak at that place at all, much less one rising ten thousand feet. Such a mountain does exist approximately 40 miles to the southwest.
2. Mount Zugula (approx 8°30'E - 38°53'E) is depicted on maps as a mountain with a peak running approximately 15 miles long. This is incorrect. Mount Zugula is a single volcanic formed peak with a lake inside the crater. [See end of report for availability of air photograph of Mount Zugula.] North of the peak the land falls away to a flat plain some five to six miles long before rising again as part of a mountain. This flat area is not shown on maps.
3. The Lega Wedes River, which is not marked on WAC #789, runs north of Debra Libanos (approx 9°42'N - 38°49'E) on a path veering slightly west and not at all in the path marked on WAC #789. This stream continues north running near Ficce (approx 9°49'N - 38°44'E) until it encounters the Jamma River. There are no streams of any consequence running east from Ficce, nor from Debra Libanos. [See end of report for availability of sketch of river near Ficce on page seven of Geography of Ethiopia for Grade Three.]
4. Many of the errors on Ethiopian maps occur because cartographers simply copied British maps, which were copied from Italian maps. These maps do not carry town or area names that even approximate the correct spelling or sound of the town or area. The town Ambo (approx 8°58'N - 37°51'E) should be Agerie Heewet which means in the Amharic language "healthful country". The town Ada (approx 8°45'N - 38°59'E) should be named Bishoftu. Hadama (approx 8°32'N - 39°17'E) is the name on maps for the town that is called Nazret by Ethiopian nationals. [See end of report for availability of Third Grade Ethiopian Geography showing Nazret on page ten.]
5. Further errors occur on these maps because poor choices were made of what were the important places. Furthermore, the names of a number of important places have been changed. This confusion is intensified by the fact that when an Ethiopian is asked what is the name of a town where he may be living, he almost always gives the name of the area instead. Thus some of the town names on US maps are actually names of the areas surrounding those towns.

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6. Available on loan from CIA Graphics Register are the following air photographs:
- a. Photograph of Mount Zugula showing Zukvald Lake in the crater. This view is looking south. *CIA 169562*
 - b. Air photograph of Lake Baik (approx 11°20'N - 39°42'E), north of Dessie. *CIA 169563*
 - c. Air photograph of Lake Dendi, south of Ambo. This view is looking toward the northeast. *(CIA 169564) [CIA 169564]*
7. Available on loan from CIA Library is a booklet entitled Geography of Ethiopia for Grade Three.

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